

Pinky Blinders - 2019 North Cheshire League Champions

Well... it actually happened. We only went and won the whole competition after finishing 5th in the league. That is the first time that has ever happened since the playoffs were introduced into the league in 2016.

And what a final it was. A beautiful sunny Sunday morning greeted the majority of us as we met at Croft driving range, resplendent in our team shirts.

This was followed by the typical banter and wind ups that has been an integral part of this team and helped to create the unbreakable team spirit that we have got. It also included one of our team (who shall remain nameless) hitting an iron shot that ricocheted all around the driving range bays and nearly killed at least 3 people until it came to rest. Luckily enough those similar shots didn't plague him when he was out on the course later!

Then it was a quick pit stop in the club for breakfast before heading over to Flixton.

Upon arrival it was good to see that the other clubs in the final (Warrington being our opponents and Davyhulme and Antrobus in the 1st team final) had adopted their usual outfits of dark blue, black and white as that meant the Birchwood boys made somewhat of an impression when we all got there in our glowing shirts!!



And so onto the games themselves and it all started at 1pm with George Pearson being the first player from Birchwood to tee off out of everyone who was assembled. And there were obviously no nerves at all, or if there were then they were very well hidden as George produced a beautiful, arrow straight, tee shot whilst his competitor was scrabbling around in the trees and rough chipping out sideways.

And so followed the procession of Birchwood players out onto the course with Wes Gibson, John Welch, Dave Queeney, Danny Wells, Pete Gold, myself and Steve Davock all following onwards.

The course itself had been setup quite tough with the fairways having been narrowed and the rough being very penal and 'juicy' but this didn't stop the boys from playing superbly well. Below are just a few quotes from some of the team on their thoughts on their games...

"I was 5 up after 8 holes and then somehow we were all square after 15!!! I had a word with myself on the 16th tee, birdied 16, parred 17 to win and then headed to the bar for a much needed pint"

"Looking through the trees on the 18th hole all I could see was what seemed to be 7 pink glow sticks standing around the green, guiding me home"

"I was 3 down after 5 holes but holed a downhill 10ft putt on the 6th and that's when the fightback started. I got it back to all square after 14 and I was 1up coming down the last hole and to sink that 6ft putt on the last for the win gave me an unbelievable feeling"

"I was playing the 17th hole and was 1up and getting a shot. I'm down the middle of the fairway after nailing my drive and my opponent has just scuffed his 2nd shot so I'm thinking just knock it short left, chip it up, 2 putts and claim the win. I took out my 7 iron, adrenaline flowing and heart pumping and proceeded to hook it 120 yards offline into the River Mersey. Back to all square playing the 18th however I managed to make a half on there to half the match and seal the victory"

As for my personal feelings then it was good to win my match comfortably (7&5 if anyone is interested!!) but the standing around waiting for everyone else to come in was as nervous as anything. I was completely confident in the whole team but until you've crossed that line then in golf, anything is possible.

And in the end it was a convincing 5-3 victory and we could all relax and enjoy the moment of winning our 2nd final in 4 years.



I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all those who came down to watch, in particular Mr Captain, Lady Captain and the Vice Captain and lastly, and by no means least, a massive thank you to all the team and the people who have played for us and supported us over the year as without you all then none of this would be possible.

Roll on 2020 and the chance to hopefully get to our 5th consecutive final and defend our title.

If anyone wants any further information on playing for either of the North Cheshire League teams then contact Andy Fox for more information.